

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, from September 9th to September 15th, I was unavoidably detained in my district due to the death of my father. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote numbers 440, 441, 442, 443, 446, 447, 448, 449, 452, 453, 454, and 456. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote numbers 438, 439, 444, 445, 450, 451, and 455.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. MURPHY. Due to official business relating to the devastating damage caused by Hurricane Ivan in my Congressional District, I was not present in the chamber on Wednesday, September 22, 2004, and was regrettably unable to cast my vote on rollcall No. 461, No. 462, No. 463, No. 464, and No. 465.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 461; "yea" on rollcall No. 462; "yea" on rollcall No. 463; "no" on rollcall No. 464; and "yea" on rollcall No. 465.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. V.  
SIMPSON TURNER, SR.**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. V. Simpson Turner, Sr. for the 39th anniversary of his pastoral leadership and spiritual guidance of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and the Brooklyn Community.

Dr. Turner earned his Bachelor's Degree at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts; a Master's of Religious Education at Biblical Seminary of New York City; a Master's of Sacred Theology at New York Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University School of Theology in Administration. He is married to Laura B. Turner, an outstanding educator and a New York State Certified Secondary School Principal. They have two children: Reverend Vivian R. Pittman and Reverend V. Simpson Turner, Jr., both of whom are ordained ministers at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church; son-in-law, Deacon/Trustee Jerald Pittman; daughter-in-law, Lady Selena Turner; grandchildren, Kenya and Nathan Botley, Jerald Ali Pittman, Joelle Pittman, V. Simpson Turner III and Seteena Eliza Laura Turner; and great grandchildren, Rasaun Botley and Vivian Botley.

Dr. Turner has been active in numerous civic and charitable organizations. He has served on the Board of Trustees for Gordon College, the Baptist Home for the Elderly, the Brooklyn Public Library, and Baptist Medical Center. He has served as the Chairman of the

Department of Communications for the Council of Churches in New York City and as a former president of the North American Baptist Fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance and the Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York. He was also a former member of the Board of Directors for Religion in American Life, a former member of the Brooklyn Borough President's Community Board #3, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the New York Bible Society in New York City in 1990. More recently, in June 2002, Dr. Turner was elected Secretary of the 7,000 members Hampton University Minister's Conference. Finally, he was an Adjunct Professor on Urban Concerns at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York.

For his efforts, Dr. Turner has been honored by many community groups including the City of New York; the Bureau of Child Welfare; the United Builders Association; the Boy Scouts of America; and the YMCA. The Governor of New York appointed him to the New York State Commission on Health Education and Illness Prevention. In 1990, Dr. Turner was appointed Chairman of the Billy Graham Crusade in New York City where the Great Lawn in Central Park held the largest crowd ever to attend a Billy Graham meeting in North America. Also, in the spring of 1990, as editor of the Baptist Progress, Dr. Turner received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for meritorious service in writing.

Dr. Turner produces and directs a weekly radio show known as "The Black Religious Experience" as well as a public affairs Cable TV program known as "The Public Wants To Know." He is the author of "Compassion for the City," which is used throughout the country as a textbook for those going into urban ministry. Dr. Turner has been instrumental in implementing several important community programs and resources such as a Homework Center, a High School Equivalency Program, a referral service to New York City Technical College, a Senior Services and handicapped Bus Ministry, a Radio Ministry, a Shut-In and Outreach Ministry, a Carillons Ministry, a "Sing, Spell, Read and Write" Educational Ministry, and a Soup Kitchen Ministry. Several college graduates began their college careers at Mt. Carmel as part of the then NYC Community College extension, which Dr. Turner helped to operate.

On January 4, 2004, Dr. Turner celebrated his 39th Anniversary as Pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. He had a vision to combine his church and an apartment building into a Church and Educational complex. In the spring of 1993, Dr. Turner realized his vision of building affordable housing. Today, the 78 units, known as the Mt. Carmel Town Houses are occupied by new homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. V. Simpson Turner, Sr. has been a tireless advocate for his community and a spiritual leader for 39 years at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

## NEBRASKA'S LEADERSHIP IN DESIGNING A PLAN TO IMPROVE CIVIC EDUCATION

**HON. TOM OSBORNE**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, we should be very proud of our constitutional heritage, and feel comforted by the fact that we live in the world's oldest constitutional democracy. We celebrate Constitution Week knowing that the principles of a free democracy are emulated by nations throughout the world. It is extremely important that our young people understand and appreciate the time-honored principles that the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and other documents embody. For this reason, effective instruction in civics and government in our schools is necessary.

Last year, the first Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held. One of the positive outcomes of this conference was the establishment of state delegations to return to the state to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools. I would like to recognize Nebraska's delegation for their leadership in working to design a plan to improve civic education in our state.

Nebraska's plan will result in the formation of the Civics Nebraska Partnership, a coalition of educators, public officials, agencies, and organizations committed to improving the level of civic learning in our state. Initially, Civics Nebraska will measure civic aptitude and attitudes of Nebraskans and provide a clearinghouse of resources for classroom teachers. It is hoped that the partnership will help bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the education and government sectors when it comes to civics education.

I look forward to the success of Civics Nebraska and want to recognize the efforts of those who are working hard to improve civics and government education.

## RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAN MELISSA MORRISON

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2004*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kannapolis, North Carolina native Melissa Morrison. I want to congratulate Melissa for her Bronze medal in the 100 meter hurdles at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Melissa started running track in the seventh grade because a cousin, April Graham, made it look easy and fun. A few short years later Melissa was running track for A.L. Brown High School, and collecting four state titles in the process. She next attended Appalachian State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and receiving All-American honors in both the 55 and 100 meter hurdles.

Melissa's first Olympic experience was at the 2000 Sydney, Australia games. In Sydney, Melissa was the only American woman to win a medal in the 100 meter hurdles, winning